

REMARKS

In this paper, claim 23 is currently amended. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-27 are pending.

The applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 1-22.

Claims 23 and 25-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hillyer (US 3,934,493). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 23 has been amended to clarify that the hub axle includes an opening for receiving a control rod therein for controlling the clutch member. Hillyer discloses a hub transmission comprising a solid hub axle (13), an input member (22a) of a cam and cam follower assembly (22) rotatably supported on hub axle (13) through a ball bearing assembly, a driver (14) rotatably supported on input member (22a) through another ball bearing assembly, a hub shell (16) rotatably supported on driver (14) and hub axle (13) through a corresponding pair of ball bearing assemblies, and epicyclic gear trains (11, 12) controlled by cam and cam follower assembly (22). The Hillyer hub assembly does not have a hub axle that includes an opening for receiving a control rod therein for controlling a clutch member. Furthermore, if the Hillyer hub assembly were modified to include an opening for receiving a control rod therein for controlling a clutch member, then there would be no need for input member (22a) of cam and cam follower assembly (22), and the ball bearing assembly that rotatably supports input member (22a) to hub axle (13) likewise would be eliminated. As a result, there would be not be first and second bearing assemblies rotatably supporting drive member (14) on the axle (13). Thus, Hillyer neither discloses nor suggests the subject matter recited in claims 23-27.

Claims 24 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hillyer in view of Steuer (US 4,400,999). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons noted above.

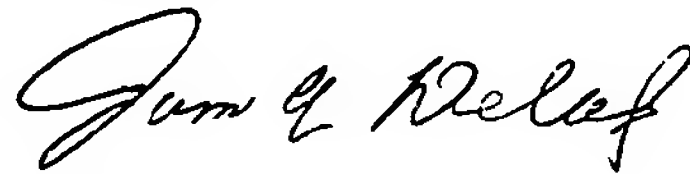
Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in

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condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.
Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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